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(54) Title: **SELF-VENTING POLYMERIC FILM I**

(57) Abstract: A heat-sealable, composite film said film comprising a polymeric substrate layer having a first and second surface and disposed on a surface of the substrate layer a water-soluble barrier layer, wherein (i) the substrate layer has one or more venting means therein; and (ii) the thickness of the barrier layer is from about 0.05 to about 40 µm; a process for the manufacture thereof; and use thereof as a self-venting film in the packaging of an ovenable meal.

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